

applications have been processed upto 31st December, 2000 and 1,82,66,786 Permanent Account Numbers have been allotted. The balance figures represent application with deficiency and those received in the recent months. All out efforts are made for expeditious allotment of PAN and timely issue of refunds.

Increase in Subsidies

†2658. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a continuous increase in the amount of subsidy in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated percentage of increase in the amount during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) whether the common people of this country are getting the advantage of this subsidy; if not, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As will be seen from Annexure 3.1 of the Expenditure Budget Volume 1 presented in the Parliament on 28 February, 2001, subsidies increased from Rs. 23593 crore in 1998-99 to Rs. 26949 crore in R.E. 2000-2001. The percentage increase over the previous year during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (RE) was 27%, 5% and 9% respectively; and

(c) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to ensure that the subsidies reach the targeted beneficiaries.

Oil Refineries in the Country

2659. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of different refineries in the country, company-wise;

(b) the installed capacity and the actual capacity utilisation of those refineries in 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to expand the capacity of the existing refineries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?